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- a) an elongated curved rod having a hand grip end and an arc of curvature;
 - b) cross-hatched ridges at the hand grip end of the rod; and
 - c) two tines connected by a brace bar protruding from a tined section of the rod, said tined section including a plurality of tines, wherein the tines project substantially out from the rod in a plane substantially containing the arc of curvature of the rod.
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Remarks

In the Office Action dated February 28, 2003 claims 1 and 4 were rejected for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lisowski (U.S. Patent 5,937,473). Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lisowski (U.S. Patent 5,937,473) in view of Nunziato et al. (U.S. Patent 3,993,013). These rejections will be addressed under headings consistent with those in the Office Action. A Marked-up Copy of the Amended Claims is included herein. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

In the Office Action dated February 28, 2003 claims 1 and 4 were rejected for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The Office Action asserts the limitation “the arc of curvature of the tool” does not have sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim. Upon speaking with the Examiner on April 11, 2003, the Examiner stated that replacing “the arc of curvature of the tool” with “the arc of curvature of the rod” would correct the indefiniteness finding and would overcome the cited art. In addition to this, Applicant has clarified the antecedent basis in claim 4. Applicant respectfully requests that the indefiniteness rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

In the Office Action dated February 28, 2003 claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lisowski (U.S. Patent 5,937,473). Applicant has amended

claim 1 to recite "the arc of curvature of the rod". This feature is not present in Lisowski. Thus it is believed that claim 1 and claims 2-3 dependent thereof are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

In the Office Action dated February 28, 2003 claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lisowski (U.S. Patent 5,937,473) in view of Nunziato et al. (U.S. Patent 3,993,013). Applicant has amended claim 4 to recite "the arc of curvature of the rod". This feature is neither taught nor suggested in either Lisowski or Nunziato. Thus it is believed that claim 4 and claims 5-6 dependent thereof are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the above, withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Applicant believes that pending claims 1-6 are in condition for allowance. Early notification of such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marked-up Copy of Amended Claims

1. (Twice Amended) A tool for the removal of weeds and/or debris from grates, anchors, propellers, motors and platforms attached or a part of aquatic vehicles comprising:
 - a) an elongated curved rod having an arc of curvature;
 - b) a multi ridged hand grip section at one end of the rod; and
 - c) a weed and/or debris removing tined section at the other end of the rod, said tined section including a plurality of tines, wherein the tines project substantially out from the rod in a plane substantially containing the arc of curvature of the rod [tool].

4. (Twice Amended) A tool for the removal of weeds and/or debris from grates, anchors, propellers, motors and platforms attached or a part of aquatic vehicles comprising:
 - a) an elongated curved rod having a hand grip end and an arc of curvature;
 - b) cross-hatched ridges at the hand grip end of the rod; and
 - c) two tines connected by a brace bar protruding from [the other end] a tined section of the rod, said tined section including a plurality of tines, wherein the tines project substantially out from the rod in a plane substantially containing the arc of curvature of the rod [tool].